



CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

February 8, 2010

Appropriations Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 2700
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Legislator,

The Trustees and the Heads of the 97 schools in the Connecticut Association of Independent Schools understand that our state's current budget crisis will require difficult choices. Our fear is that cuts to independent schools may actually exacerbate the budget shortfall. Every student who leaves an independent school to enroll in the public system costs the state, approximately \$13,500 in the current year.

The recession has impacted the ability of independent school parents to absorb higher tuitions and diminished services. Our schools are doing everything we can to hold the line on costs and to expand financial aid. If transportation and/or nursing services are cut back, we predict a substantial loss of students in some of our schools.

The approximate 75,000 students in Connecticut's independent schools represent an annual savings of over \$1 billion in mandated services. Our schools provide jobs, attract companies to Connecticut and are good neighbors in the communities in which we reside.

In order for us to continue to be a financial asset to the taxpayers of Connecticut, we need to be fully enrolled. We respectfully ask that you reject the reduction in funding to independent schools as proposed in Governor Rell's recent budget adjustment proposal.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this important issue to CAIS's member schools and the families that we are proud to serve. Please call upon me with any questions.

Sincerely,

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decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Douglas J. Lyons
Executive Director
Connecticut Association of Independent Schools